

proud to invite Msgr. to participate in a nautical ceremony at the Buffalo Yacht Club several years ago.

I was proud to have known Msgr. Ducette and to have been in his presence when he offered prayers. He was a kind soul, loved by all who had the privilege of knowing him. It is certain that his many friends and followers mourn his loss and will look to his great legacy—the successful St. Timothy's parish—for comfort at this time of sadness.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS  
FROM WANDO HIGH SCHOOL IN  
MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA

**HON. MARK SANFORD**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the students from Wando High School, located in South Carolina's First Congressional District, who will be participating in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals a few short days from now. In order to qualify for the national finals, a class must win its state championship or qualify as a "wild card" class, which was the case for Wando this year. These students will join with approximately 1,200 high schoolers from 56 classes across the nation, all of whom will be competing in the mock hearings held at the University of Maryland.

At a variety of levels, it is encouraging to see so many students investing their time to further their education by taking an in-depth look at American history, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. And the support these students receive throughout the U.S. is remarkable—each year, local communities raise nearly \$2,000,000 to support the national finalists.

During their time in DC, the high schoolers not only have the opportunity to explore our nation's capital, but they will come to demonstrate their civic knowledge by participating in a simulated congressional hearing before panels of judges made up of constitutional scholars, lawyers, journalists, and government leaders from across the nation.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the students from Wando, wish them good luck at the competition, and offer a word of welcome as they make their visit to the Capitol.

HONORING THE GALVAN  
BALLROOM

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Galvan Ballroom in Corpus Christi, Texas, which recently received the Texas Treasure Business Award.

The Texas Historical Commission, an organization authorized by the Texas State Legislature, honored the Galvan Ballroom with the Texas Treasure Business Award, as a business that has been in operation and has provided employment opportunities and support

to the state's economy for over 50 years. This award, created in 2005 by Senate Bill 920, pays tribute to the state's well-established businesses and their exceptional historical contributions toward the economic growth and prosperity of the State of Texas. The Galvan Ballroom, located in the heart of Corpus Christi at 1632 Agnes St., opened its doors on March 2, 1950. The Galvan Ballroom was established by Corpus Christi police officer, entrepreneur, and musician Rafael Galvan, Sr. Mr. Galvan sought to open a venue for the Galvan Orchestra, a fifteen-piece ensemble featuring his four sons: Ralph, Eddie, Sammy, and Bobby.

The Galvan Ballroom earned its reputation as the place in Corpus Christi to visit for big band, swing, and jazz music. Due to its large size, the venue hosted national acts. The large dance hall, which featured a custom-made revolving chandelier with four spotlights, was a popular location for dances and other events. South Texans will recall that the Galvan Ballroom was fully booked with events nearly every night. On Saturday nights, the ballroom hosted functions for private clubs and community events, including student dances, church events, and the annual policeman's ball. On Sundays, the ballroom opened to the public for dancing and music, including performances by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Chester "Chet" Rupe. During the time of segregation, The Galvan Ballroom played a major role in the social and cultural development of Corpus Christi. The venue promoted integration of the Hispanic and Anglo-American communities through diverse musical acts, which included African-American groups.

The Galvan Ballroom continues to be a musical landmark in Corpus Christi. Today, the ballroom hosts weddings, quinceañeras and other events. On the first floor is the headquarters of the Galvan Music Company. Eddie Galvan, a member of the original Galvan Orchestra, was inducted into the South Texas Region XIV Band Directors Hall of Fame, and the South Texas Music Walk of Fame has also honored members of the Galvan family.

In 2015, the Galvan Ballroom was added to the National Register of Historic Places and was designated as a Texas Hispanic Heritage site. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating the Galvan Ballroom upon receiving the Texas Treasure Business Award, and wish them many more years of continued contributions to the Coastal Bend area.

VOTER SUPPRESSION IS UN-  
AMERICAN

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today on this Restoration Tuesday, I rise to shed light on the continued voter suppression around the country during this election year and the ongoing battle to protect every American's constitutional right to vote.

Alabama—Arizona—Texas—Wisconsin—the list goes on. We continue to hear tale after tale of modern day barriers to the voting polls this election year. After the Supreme Court struck down Section 4 pre-clearance requirements in 2013, several states took that ruling

as a license to trample on the Constitution and violate the voting rights of vulnerable communities across the nation. These continued attacks on the rights of eligible voters in this country are unconscionable and unconstitutional. Congress needs to act now to stop this plague of voter suppression and fight for justice.

Today, as you know, the state of New York is holding its primary elections. Unsurprisingly, complaints have already been made by eligible voters who registered a minor party or with no party, and who will not be able to participate in the primary elections. New state rules allow only registered Democrats to vote in Tuesday's Democratic primary and only registered Republicans to vote in the GOP contest. This new law will leave out 3.2 million New Yorkers who are registered to vote.

Likewise, my home state of Alabama implemented new strict voter ID laws and then closed over 30 DMV offices; the most popular location to obtain a driver's license. Arizona implemented a similar voter suppression strategy by reducing their voting sites from 200 in 2012 to 60 in 2016, citing a so-called need for budget savings.

In all, 17 states across the country have implemented new restrictive laws aimed at blocking the American people from the ballot box. New laws with strict photo identification requirements, early voting cutbacks, new requirements of proof of citizenship, and practices creating grueling waiting lines are all burdensome barriers which would have likely been blocked through the Voting Rights Act process of pre-clearance. And not surprisingly, these new restrictions have disproportionately affected minority populations such as African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans as well as university students.

The fear of voter fraud is an excuse. The need for budget cutbacks is an excuse. The American people are fed up with the excuses. Fundamental to our democracy is the right to vote, and creating barriers to block the vote is truly un-American. It holds little value to give someone a car and then take away the keys. Our right to vote is the vehicle to democracy but we need the keys to easily access the polls. The suppression needs to stop, the oppression needs to stop, and the excuses need to stop. Congress needs to stand up and do something about it now.

On this Restoration Tuesday, I give us all the charge to battle against the continued suppression of the American vote and stand strong by our principles of democracy, liberty, and justice for all.

IN RECOGNITION OF IRVIN WARREN  
AND HIS SERVICE TO THE  
COMMUNITY

**HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2016*

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Irvin Warren was born to a rural farming family in Sampson County, North Carolina where he spent his early years learning the value of hard, honest work and the importance of education. Later Mr. Warren pursued higher education at both East Carolina and North Carolina State Universities; Mr.